



## Administrative Assistant to the Selectmen

Stu Marckoon  
606 Douglas Hwy  
Lamoine, ME 04605  
(207) 667-2242

[town@lamoine-me.gov](mailto:town@lamoine-me.gov)

### Proposed Revenue Budget 2018/19

A couple of items make a final revenue budget a bit problematic at this time (late November), but I'm pleased to offer most lines.

**Property Tax Interest** – Based on the 5-year actual average of property tax interest, a \$1,000 (10%) increase is achievable.

**Auto Excise Tax** – While I'm very conservative when trying to estimate excise taxes, based on last year's record collections and no signs of it slowing down for the current fiscal year, I'm comfortable in saying we should collect at least \$350,000 for the 18/19 fiscal year. That's a \$45,000 budget increase.

**Boat Excise Tax** – No change is proposed in this amount, and it's right about the 5-year average.

**Administration Fees** – This includes photocopies, newsletter subscriptions and the like. A \$50 increase is proposed based on the actual collected in the previous fiscal year.

**Tax Lien Charges** – This matches the expense line in the administration budget.

**Agent Fees** – A \$200 increase is proposed, which, considering the 5-year average, should be easily achieved.

**Revenue Sharing** – This does not appear as an income item on the town meeting warrant, as this only can be used on the tax commitment form to lower the property tax commitment. For budget purposes, though, it should be listed so that we can figure out what the likely budget impact will be. The roughly 10% reduction has become an annual expectation given the political climate in Augusta, but it's based on the approved amount that came from Augusta in the current fiscal year.

**General Assistance Reimbursement** – This represents 70% of the proposed GA Budget in the administration budget.

**Investment Interest** – An increase of \$1,000 is based on the actual amount received in the previous fiscal year. That is achievable.

**Cell Tower Rental** – We know this amount based on the lease agreement with American Tower.

**Hodgkins Trust Fund** – The proposed \$8,850 in this line matches the estimated cost to build the Mud Creek Road Park, should that come to fruition.

**Surplus Use** – We still await the final audit figure. Unless I've made some horrible miscalculation, we should be in the \$575,000 range for undesignated fund balance. If we

utilize \$150,000, that would put the level at \$425,000, still well above the target of \$300,000.

The rationale for the \$150,000 is to pay for the outright purchase of the ladder truck instead of borrowing, along with other capitalized items such as \$20,000 for the town hall foundation (possible community center) fund, \$5,000 for the Lamoine 150! Fund, and just a general property tax reduction.

With this general fund income, we would see a roughly \$100,000 increase in revenues put toward property tax reduction.

**CEO Fees** – We've collected an average of \$10,000 in code enforcement revenue over the past 5-years, and the proposed \$10,000 would match that. I think it's doable.

I've not proposed transferring any funds from the current CEO Fund balance (roughly \$54,000), but this could be used if need be. This fund has built up because of increased revenues and decreased costs over the past several years.

Additionally, there are no revenues budgeted from plumbing fees. The reason for this is that the agreement with our new plumbing inspector (LPI) is that her LPI salary consists of the local share of plumbing fees.

**Road Assistance** – No change is proposed from the current fiscal year. I've not heard of any state monkeying with road assistance, but the year is young.

**Road Fund Use** - \$20,000 is proposed as the use of the road fund. Pre-Audit figures show \$167,000 in the fund balance. We've appropriated \$137,000, leaving \$30,000 available. I'm a little reluctant to draw this down entirely. This would make for a good discussion.

**Recreation Fees** – I've asked the Rec Committee to come up with some figures for submission.

**Animal Control** – No change is proposed in the dog license fees.

**Other** – No funding is expected from the Land Conservation Fund, the Revaluation Fund or the Capital Projects Fund at this time.

**Total Revenue** – As of this writing, the amount of revenue available (without any Recreation Department included) is down roughly \$40,000. The proposed amount of Road Fund use is significantly down, accounting for that decrease.

Respectfully submitted,

*Stu Marckoon, Adm. Asst. to the Selectmen*